

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 23-29 and 31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 29 is amended. No new matter is added by this amendment. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 4, states that claims 1-21, 23-28 and 31 are allowed. The Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability.

The Office Action objects to claim 29. Claim 29 is amended to obviate this objection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,537,188 to Haneda. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action asserts that Haneda teaches all of the features recited in pending claim 29. However, Haneda does not teach the developer replenishment box is disposed vertically above a latent image writing position on the image carrying body, as positively recited in amended claim 29. The latent image writing position, as discussed in at least paragraph [0075] of the Applicants' specification, is the position where a latent image is transferred onto an image carrying body. This corresponds to the top of the photoreceptor drum 100 of Haneda. Therefore, a replenishment box 204H, of Haneda, cannot reasonably be considered to be "disposed vertically above a latent image writing position on the image carrying body," of pending amended claim 29.

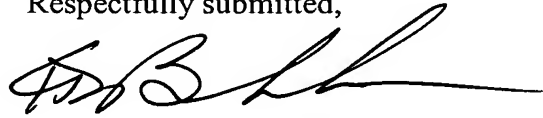
For at least the above reasons, Haneda cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all of the features recited in at least independent claim 29.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art reference is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claim 29 is earnestly solicited, in addition to the continued allowance of claims 1-21, 23-28 and 31.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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